

**Andrew Jackson to John Christmas McLemore,
September 29, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew
Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

TO JOHN C. MCLEMORE.¹

¹ Handwriting of George Breathitt.

Lexington, Kentucky, September 29, 1832.

My Dear Sir, I have this evening received yours of the 25th Inst, and must confess that I am much surprised at its Contents for I am sure no one can, with truth, say that I ever expressed a qualified friendship or confidence in Major Eaton. It is strange to me that anyone should insinuate that I have not entire confidence in him as a statesman after I have given so many unequivocal evidences of such confidence.

With what plausibility can such insinuation be made, when it is recollected that it was by my persuasion alone that he left his seat in the Senate of the United States, and accepted a place in my cabinet, where he was always found true to the administration and efficiently engaged in advancing the best interest of our Country?

It is well known that it was his own voluntary determination and not by my wishes that he retired from this Station, and that he carried with him my increased, rather than Diminished Confidence. When you reflect on these things, and recollect the various other evidences of confidence in Major Eaton, both as a man and a statesman, that I have given to the world, you will not be astonished at the surprise I felt on reading your letter.

I deeply regret that my opinions in regard to Major Eaton have been so misrepresented as to make it necessary, in discharging a duty which I owe to myself as well as others for me

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to say anything about him at this time, inasmuch as I am apprized of the strong disposition entertained by some politicians, to misinterpret and misrepresent whatever may be said by me.

But while I regret the necessity of speaking, I will not hesitate to do so, when, as in this case, the only alternative left me is to do it or permit a friend to be injured by tacitly countenancing the unfounded insinuations that are made. I would hold myself guilty of base ingratitude were I to refuse a contradiction to these incorrect statements which have been made with a view to injure a friend.

It is not true, as has been stated, that I have been or now am opposed to the election of Major Eaton to the Senate: and it appears impossible to me that, under all the circumstances, any should conclude that it would produce any other feeling than that of pleasure to see Major Eaton in the Senate from which I took him, should it be the pleasure of the Legislature to place him there.